

REMARKS

Claims 11-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,349,220 ("*Eksergian*"). In particular, the Examiner asserts that *Eksergian* discloses a wheel hub having a "rib disposed in a cavity formed at the intersection of the main body and the flange." The Examiner further argues that the "inboard side of the flange defines a smooth continuous curve."

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of *Eksergian*. Contrary to the Examiner's arguments, *Eksergian* discloses a wheel hub that "flares outwardly to a bolting flange 17 formed on the outboard end of the hub" (col. 2, lines 30-32), such that the body of the hub and flange form a continuous structure. Thus, there is no cavity formed between the flange and body of the hub (as set forth in independent claim 11), nor is it otherwise possible to have a rib that connects or extends between the body of the hub and the flange (as set forth in independent claims 16 and 20). In addition, the structures identified by the Examiner in Figure 3 of *Eksergian* are not ribs, but curves formed in the "sinuous configuration" of the hub (col. 2, lines 38-39). Furthermore, as best shown in Fig. 1 of *Eksergian*, these curves prevent the inboard side of the flange from presenting a smooth continuous curve, as set forth in dependent claims 13, 17 and 21.

However, in the interests of expediting the present application, claims 11-29 have now been cancelled. New claims 31-35 are similar to cancelled claims 21-25 and, therefore, do not constitute new subject matter. Because claims 31-35 are dependent on allowed claim 30, they are believed to be allowable over the prior art. In a telephone interview on November 1, 2004, the Examiner indicated that new claims 31-35 would be allowable.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 30-35 are patentable over the prior art. Should the Examiner believe that a conversation with applicant's representative would be useful in the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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